

# THE RICHMOND CLIMAX.

40th YEAR

RICHMOND, MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1914

NUMBER 33



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## A SPLENDID SERMON. I.

The subjoined is an outline of the sermon preached at the Methodist church, Sunday morning, March 22, by the pastor, Rev. R. C. Horton, to a large and responsive audience.

### Ten Righteous Men Can Save The City.

GENESIS 18-22.  
For almost a quarter of a century I have been a minister of the gospel. I am not in sympathy with that flippant expression that humanity is made up of three classes: Men, Women and Preachers. A preacher who is neither man nor woman is of no force in our modern world. I was a man, a citizen, and interested in all the affairs of human life before I became a minister, and I have never lost this interest. I am a citizen of Richmond and vitally interested in her welfare.

To me religion is intensely practical, and it is not meddling for christian men and women to claim a large place in the working out of all the practical problems of human life. My conception of the place and power of christian men and women in this every day world is continually broadening. Therefore, I propose now and then, to deal with civic affairs in their relation to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ten righteous men would have saved Sodom! But that is not the whole truth! Ten righteous men, plus the importunate prayer of Faithful Abraham, would have saved Sodom! Ten righteous men, supported and strengthened by the prayers of saintly men and women, can save Richmond! Can we find ten righteous men and a few saintly men and women who really want to save our city?

When we really see and know the city as Jesus saw and knew it, we will do what He did—weep over it, and work untiringly for its redemption. The cities of the world have ever been a great problem, if not THE PROBLEM of human government. One of the greatest problems before us today as a people is how to govern and control our cities.

Kentucky has contributed much and many statesmen to other states and the nation, that have done much for the government of other states and the na-

tion, while at home we are the most poorly governed of the nation.

To enforce the law, to prevent the growing up of conditions that will make this impossible, to manage the affairs of the city according to honesty; and the highest and best business methods, to arouse the best that is in all our good people, to get them interested in, and at work for, that condition of affairs, that will make it possible to have the city the best governed and controlled part of county, state and nation, expresses our problems.

We have in all our cities, churches, societies, organizations and institutions, that must become active agencies for the redemption of the city if it is to be redeemed. This work can only be done by those mentioned above, and for them it is no easy task.

The city of Sodom was desperately, openly wicked. Every evil thing ran its way in open riot, and because of this fact God determined upon its destruction. Yet in answer to the hold on the importunate prayer of Faithful Abraham, God promised to spare the city if ten righteous men could be found in all its borders. Therefore, Sodom ultimately perished, because ten righteous people did not dwell in the city. Other cities have, and will perish for the lack of a few positive, active and aggressive men and women. Ten negatively righteous people can never save any city. It means hard work to stem and stop the tides of evil, sin and shame, put down what is wrong, and build up all that is good and true.

Environment must be looked after, proper sanitation must be provided, cleanliness insisted upon, unattractive back lots must be cleaned up, pig stys put under ban, stock confined, side streets cleaned and improved, housing conditions bettered. Every good thing needs to be made just as attractive as possible. All laws and ordinances should be strictly and impartially enforced upon all alike. Whenever these things are wisely done, the city can be made to blossom as the rose, and become the garden spot of civilization.

Ten righteous men properly placed, loyally supported and properly prayed for, by the goodly men and women of our city, could make Richmond one of the best, cleanest, most wholesome and

happiest places in our State. To do this would insure growth and prosperity.

One of the very first things to be done is to eliminate partisan politics from any place in our city affairs. Let the city be in control of the people, men in the best interest of all the people. It is a thing of tremendous import to allow any law to become simply a dead letter, not enforced or observed. No one who is a good citizen knowingly violates any law. Law enforcement lies at the very base of all prosperity and success. Let us grant that we have ten righteous and capable men in Richmond, with a few saintly men and women to pray for them. How should we place them in order for them to do the very best things for the city? How would you place them? If left to me I would place them thus:

1. A mayor who would rule in righteousness, honesty and integrity, and encourage and direct all the affairs of the city in the best possible business way.

2. A chief of police who would be faithful and impartial in the enforcement of every law, and see that those under him spent the most of their time in that part of the city where it is to be found most of its crime and evil rather than in those places where little occurs.

3. A police judge who would use his power wisely, and put a stop to most of the violations of law, by making the law a terror to evil doers.

4. A leader in the city council who would lead against everything wrong, and for everything that is right. Sane and progressive, sound and wise should he be.

5. The best physician and the best man in the city, if these two could be found in one man, at the head of the Board of Health, who would permit no discoverable menace to health to exist in any quarter. The Board of Health should deal with this social evil and the Red Light district.

6. The principal of the High School should be a man of righteous life, able, sound, safe, sane, teaching by precept and example everything that goes into the making of a strong, clean, righteous life. The greatest possible care should be exercised in the selection of the man placed at the head of the city school.

7. An editor who would consecrate himself and his paper on practical every day ideals of civic improvement, and work constantly for these things.

8. A capitalist who is able and willing to assist in every movement needed to save the city, giving time and money to every good thing being striven for.

9. A nonpartisan lawyer who is a truly righteous man, willing to work with the good for every good thing the city needs, yet not looking for immediate

(Concluded on Page 4)

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